

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A process for coloring translucent ceramics ~~in porous or absorbent state,~~ which comprises:  
forming a pre-sintered ceramic;  
~~applying coloring the translucent ceramics in porous or absorbent pre-sintered state using~~ at least one of a metal ion solutions solution or metal complex ~~solutions~~ solution to the pre-sintered ceramic to form an intermediate product; and  
sintering the intermediate product to form a colored ceramic.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the ceramics are dental ceramics.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the solutions contain at least one of the ions or complexes of the rare earth elements ~~or transition metals~~ in subgroups II and VIII of the Periodic Table and copper.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the solutions contain at least one of Pr, Er, Fe, Co, Ni or Cu.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein the ions or complexes are at least one salt or complex selected from the group consisting of chlorides, acetates, alcohols and oxo complexes.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein ceramics based on zirconium oxide or aluminum oxide are used.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein dental ceramics based on zirconium oxide or aluminum oxide are used.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the ion or complex solutions are water-based or alcohol-based.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein an action time of the ion or complex solutions is under two hours.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the solutions is 0.001 to 15 wt.%.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the coloring takes place by immersion of the ceramic in the solutions, deposition of the solutions to the ceramic with the help of application instruments or by spraying of the solutions onto the ceramic.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the ceramics to be colored have a diameter of 10 mm and a height of 7 mm.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the ceramics are completely through-colored.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A kit, comprising:

- (i) at least one stock bottle with a metal ion or metal complex solution for coloring of ceramics,
- (ii) a receptacle for the coloring, and
- (iii) a screen.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein the action time is under 1 hour.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein the action time is under 20 minutes.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the ceramics to be colored have a diameter of 7 mm and a height of 5 mm.